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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/640,981	08/14/2003	Michael Lane Mitchell	TI-35215 / DDM03-015	9193
23494	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED			CUNNINGHAM, TERRY D	
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999			ART UNIT	
DALLAS, TX 75265			PAPER NUMBER	
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PN

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/640,981	MITCHELL, MICHAEL LANE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Terry D. Cunningham	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Reopen Prosecution

This paper is in response to the Appeal Brief filed 30 January 2006. Prosecution on the merits is hereby reopened for the purposes of ensuring that all the requirements for Appeal are met and for introducing new grounds of rejection.

Double Patenting

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 1-20 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/654,165. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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In claim 1, lines 16, it is deemed misdescriptive to claim that the “output signal” controls the “processor device” only “during startup”. While similar phraseology is used in the specification, the specification clearly established that the “output signal” Vout prevents the “processor device” from operating during “startup” and allows it to operate normally thereafter (see the paragraph linking pages 5-6 of the specification). As seen, the “output signal” is always controlling the “processor”.

Claims 2-8 are rejected as including the indefiniteness discussed above with claim 1.

Claims 9-20 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 1-8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano (USPN 4,754,166).

With respect to claims 1-16, the reference to Nagano discloses, in Fig. 1, a circuit comprising: “a first signal-treating circuit (R3 and C)”;

“a voltage supply signal (VCC)”;

“a first treated signal (B)” being “a time-delayed representation of said voltage supply”;

“a second signal-treating circuit (R1 and R2)”;

“a second treated signal (A)” being “a non-delayed representation of said voltage supply signal”;

and “a comparing unit (11)...generating an output signal (RS)”, all connected and operating similarly as recited by Applicant. It is noted that the

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recitation concerning the “processor device” is deemed intended use or mere functional language.

With respect to claims 9-20, clearly the above circuit to Nagano will provide the recited method.

Examiner has fully considered Applicant’s remarks for the above rejection and has not found them to be persuasive. Applicant argues concerning “intended use”, however, line 1 of claim 1, for example, expressly states that the overall “apparatus” is “for effecting a controlled startup of a processor device”. Thus, it is abundantly clear that the “processor device” is not part of the “apparatus” that is claimed. Therefore, it can only be reasonably seen that an operation with regard to the “processor device” would be mere intended use. Further, the above rejection also states that the language concerning the “processor device” is mere “functional language”. Reference is made to M.P.E.P. § 2114 which discussed “functional language”.

Applicant is reminded that since a Final Rejection has already been made in this case, a new Appeal Brief can be filed at any time.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 571-272-1742. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC
February 27, 2006


Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
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